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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Carson Announces Release of \$4.65 Million To
McCurtain County For Ice Storm
Money Reimbursement For 2000 Ice Storm***

Washington, D.C. --

Eastern Oklahoma Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK) announced today the release of \$4.65 million dollars by the United States Department of Transportation to the state of Oklahoma for the cost of clean up related to the 2000 ice storm that crippled much of Southeast Oklahoma. The money was made available by the U.S. Department of Transportation through their Federal Highways Administrations' Emergency Relief Fund.

The Emergency Relief Fund gives \$100 million in reimbursements to states throughout the country, each year, who have suffered through major disasters. This year, Oklahoma will receive \$11.8 million for the I-40 Bridge repair, in addition to the \$3 million already given to the repair project and \$4.65 million for the ice storms that devastated the state earlier this year. Oklahoma is eligible to receive additional compensation in October of next year.

"I am very pleased to announce that McCurtain County can feel safe that the check is in the mail," said Congressman Carson. "Our office had received calls from the County Commissioners who desperately needed assistance with the cost of clean up from this crippling storm. That assistance is now on its way."

"Congressman Carson is pro-active and very much in touch with the transportation needs in his district. Working to get the funding to help defray the emergency winter's ice storm expenses shows his concerns with the area's well being and state transportation in general," commented Oklahoma Department of Transportation Director Gary Ridley. "We also appreciated his help during the Webbers Falls I-40 bridge situation last summer. He was instrumental in getting a good portion of the emergency funds for that work. We look forward to working with him on the next federal funding bill."

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